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THE EASTERNER

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EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2001



THE WORLD BEYOND

Geology prof. John Buchanan featured in National Geographic

SEE: PAGE 2

A large, black and white photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He is shown from the chest up, facing slightly to the right, with his mouth open as if he is speaking or shouting. He is wearing a dark suit jacket. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a window or a large screen.

A Dream

As a nation we bid honor and importance to the historical figure and visionary, **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**

SEE: PAGE 2

Professor explores the Mayan underworld of Xibalba

Yasmeen Abdullah
Reporter

The gaping darkness leads to a world unknown. Daylight is repelled from the unnatural midnight. An eerie silence issues forth. Sure, the large hole can be described as just another cave. Yet, this isn't just a little cave where a bear might hibernate. This is Xibalba, the Mayan Underworld. They feared and respected the cave systems in South America, never venturing too far in.

The cave could be a palace for the lord of the dark. Its passages have vaulted rooms, tight tunnels, corridors, and watery sumps. A large expanse of the cave remains unexplored. Explorers have mapped about 40 convoluted miles and expect that there is at least 20 more miles of cave passages.

Recently, National Geographic sponsored an expedition to map the unfathomably large cave system. Among the team of scientists, Professor Buchanan, a geology teacher here at Eastern, was recruited for the expedition.

The cave system is collectively called the Chiquibul caves. They are estimated to have formed about 800,000 years ago. One chamber in the cave system measures about 1,600 feet long and 600 wide. It is the largest cave room in the Western Hemisphere.

The cave system will not be fully mapped for some years yet. Both men and women were on the expedition team. A support crew also worked to keep the expedition supplied.

Buchanan's interest in caves started at an

early age. His 8th grade physical science teacher first inspired him. By 9th grade, he had his first maps of caves published by the Pennsylvania Geologic Survey. In his career, Buchanan has traveled all over the world. He relates that, "one of the best things about geology is that you have to travel the world to see what exists." The physical aspect of the science continually fuels Buchanan's enthusiasm in geology. There is constant intensive outdoor activity; from scaling cliff sides to swimming flooded channels. Exploring caves is rigorously demanding.

While physically challenging, Buchanan also finds the science of geology intellectually stimulating. Wherever Buchanan travels, he immerses himself in the foreign cultures. His scientific travels have been an eye opening cultural experience. Buchanan enjoys the cultural opportunities. He comments that, "world travel broadens you."

It is a multidisciplinary task to explore caves. Archaeologists, scientists of expertise and photographers come together to create expedition teams. Buchanan is in constant contact with other scientists. He has honed his ability to interact with them. He also enjoys being able to learn from other scientists who are experts in their respective fields.

The psychological aspect of exploring caves is also demanding. Buchanan spends weeks at a time camped underground. The lights that an expedition team brings barely make a dent on the vast darkness. This means that Buchanan goes for weeks at a time without

seeing the light of day.

Buchanan's main expertise is caves. He was invaluable to the exploration of the Chiquibul cave system. The team that Buchanan was part of, are the first modern explorers in the vast expanse of underground caves in South America. The amazing aspect of being the first human being to explore a new world is exhilarating. Not even Columbus had that honor. Buchanan proudly states that, "more people have walked on the moon than gone in these caves." What Buchanan helped to discover in the caves is also amazing. Besides the Mayan artifacts, a 10,000-year-old fossil of an ancient bear was also discovered.

The Mayans haven't visited Xibalba for some 1,200 years. Yet, they left behind their artifacts, providing a window into their lost culture. The Mayans would enter the caves to honor their Gods and obtain water in times of drought. Large pots, clay whistles, grinding stones, incense burners, and altars have all been found in the cave system. Buchanan relates that the artifacts have, "sat in the stone



▲ Dr. Buchanan has spelunked his way into National Geographic.

cold silence for thousands of years."

The otherworldly Chiquibul system is awe-inspiring. Buchanan hopes to explore parts of it again in the future. For now, he has decided to take the next year off and stay close to home. Undoubtedly, his travels in the future will also be noteworthy. His contribution to his science is priceless. Luckily, Eastern has such honorable staff to teach the courses offered to students.

Remember the man by living the dream

Dr. King elevated the struggle for racial equality onto the level of the quest for human dignity, the true source of the modern civil rights movement. Dignity, taken from the Latin word "dignus": which literally means "worth," points to the fact that every human being has an innate value that should be recognized and honored by others, regardless of that person's particular cultural background, gender, or ethnicity. As such, Dr. King's "dream" has been bequeathed to us as a choice, to act upon today. This makes the man and his message so timeless in my eyes. Martin Luther King Day, as well as every day of the year, is an opportu-



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

nity to reap what Dr. King has sown throughout his life.

-Dr. Scott Finnie

EWU placed in top 201 schools in U.S.

Eastern Washington University has been included in the new publication *The Best 201 Colleges for the Real World* for 2001-2002, the only public college or university in the state selected for this national roster.

This publication commends colleges for their success in career preparation, for focusing on the real-world issues of access to education and employability after college—and ranks how and why they were chosen for inclusion.

"These are colleges that are within your reach (financially), with programs that match your needs and that can be completed in a reasonable time frame," said Michael Violit, president of Robert Morris College in Chicago and the author of *The Best 201 Colleges for the Real World*. "They feature programs that offer a tangible return on your investment in the form of a job or career path."

"While we were surprised at the announcement that we were included in the publication, we are very pleased to receive this recognition for our achievement in meeting the needs of those of our students who seek a professional career as the outcome of their educational investment," said Dr. Stephen M. Jordan,

Eastern's President.

The criteria used by Violit in selecting the top 201 colleges for career preparation were: proximity to a major city, admission standards, college costs, financial aid availability, retention to graduation, program strengths enrollment growth, undergraduate enrollment and average class size.

An important focus of the selection process was the extent to which a university consciously provides opportunities for students to develop their career skills and supports their development of skills which will place them in career positions when they graduate.

Jordan noted that Eastern has made providing work-related experiences for students one of the university's key performance indicators. He said that in 1999-2000, more than 2,930 EWU students were involved in internships, cooperative education or service learning experiences. This was a 28 percent increase from 1995-96.

Although Eastern was the only public institution in Washington included in the top 201 in the nation, some other regional institutions made the list, including Boise State University, Portland State University, the University of Portland and Montana State Billings.

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The new cat: Gatto's Pizzeria revamped

Adrian Workman
Campus Life Editor

Gatto's Pizza is a whole new cat. The 1st street pizzeria has fresh owners, and will enhance its menu and physical appearance while remaining true to its reputation as the place to go in Cheney for pizza, games, beer, and fun.

Tracy and Paul Gorum are a married couple from Kent, Wash. Paul has been a mechanic for about 30 years. Tracy worked for various grocers as a perishable foods specialist for 18 years.

Paul and Tracy were weary of working to make other people wealthy, so they physically scoured the expanse of the United States for eight months, "looking for a perfect restaurant to buy."

What made them decide upon Gattos? In a word: Serendipity.

"I pressed the wrong button," Tracy said. She had given up on her search, and went online to get her job back. The AOL button she accidentally pressed was for real estate listings, where she learned about Gatto's.

"It's a great town, and a great place," she said. "I never found both qualities in any of the other places." Another quality that aided

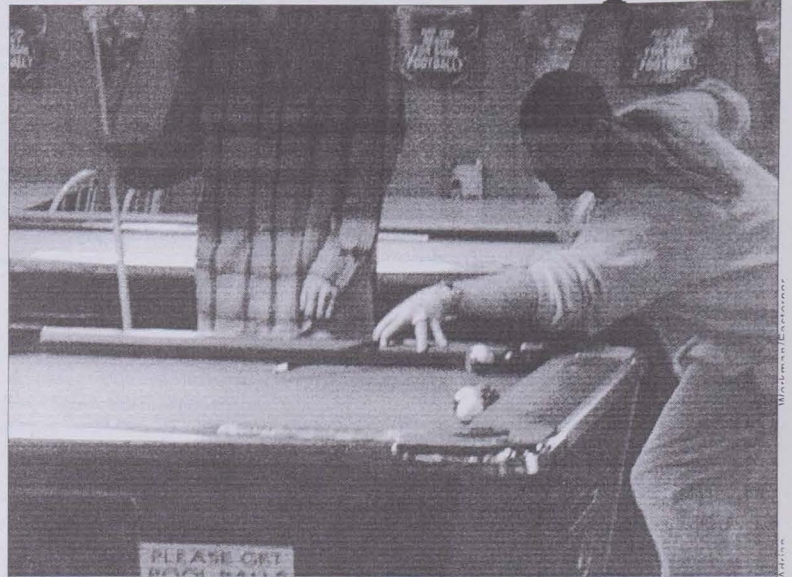
her decision: "I love kids." The Gorums raised six foster children, and one of their own. "They're all our own!"

Tracy is excited and surprisingly open-minded about changes for her new restaurant. For starters, she has inadvertently become a local art patron by allowing people to paint pictures on the inside walls. "Come in, do your thing, make sure it's in good taste, nothing x-rated." Pick a wall, bring some paint, and she'll even foot the bill for pizza and spaghetti.

You'll have a lot of grub to choose from. The menu has spread out to include new sandwiches, lasagnas [vegetarian option here], barbecue ribs [smoked on location via new smoker grill], veal parmesan, and spaghetti with meatballs.

Starting January 8th, Gatto's has gone to a full-service restaurant, with a wait staff and host. The official grand opening will be January 20th. There will still be the ticket games and the arcade games, but the main thing that will stay the same will be the pizzas. The pizza recipes will remain unchanged.

In hopes of attracting the sports aficionado crowd, the Gorums have installed a 60-in. television in the dining area in front of the foosball tables. Tracy said that there will



▲ Under new ownership, Gatto's is becoming a more viable option for cats to chill. More menu options, full service, and a 60-in. TV are some of the new additions.

be a Superbowl party with beer, food/appetizers specials, and quarterly prizes. The pool tables have been resurfaced and leveled. There are two new dartboards. There are already foosball leagues, and the Gorums hope to start up some dart and pool tournaments as well. Eventually, Tracy would like to have outdoor volleyball and horse-shoe tossing in the warmer months. The sky is the limit for the Gorums. There is even talk of having a 007 tournament [four-player, first-person shooter for the Nintendo 64].

The darts competitions should start in February. Darts and Pool players can register on the January 20th opener. Tracy promises a \$5 entrance fee and a sizable

cash pot prize for the winning darts teams.

With all the tavern-like activities, one would assume that the establishment is steering away from its appeal to families. This assumption would be a mistake. As before, Gatto's still has a smoking section. It is surprisingly easy for the most sensitive of non-smokers to breathe, though. There are live plants throughout the restaurant, and a "smoke eater," a sort of filtration device that hangs from the ceiling. These make dining in a smoker-friendly establishment possible for non-smokers, and even pleasant.

"I want everybody, I'm targeting everybody," says Tracy. Unless you're an underage smoker or drinker, "you can party down here."

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The Eighties: Some darn good times, or the bane of American society?

Brian Triplett
Copy Editor

I had a mullet until 1995, so I find it difficult to believe there are actually people who don't like Eighties pop culture. Sure, the Eighties were a period marked by broken families, Reaganomics, "Growing Pains," and other things likely to scar people for life, but how could somebody fail to appreciate the movies, music, and silly fashion trends of the era?

Back in the Eighties, those of us raised by our televisions had a plethora of riches to keep us entertained. There were cartoons such as Transformers, Voltron, and G.I. Joe. The evenings were filled with shows such as WKRP, M.A.S.H., and Barney Miller that were light years ahead of current offerings such as "Friends" and "Caroline in the City." We got to see MTV when it was still that channel everybody's parents hated.

The music of the era was totally radical. People could listen to everything from R.E.M. [back when Michael Stipe still had hair], to most non-heinous tunes from the era's premiere hard rock and metal bands, to goofy novelty songs like "Mexican Radio" by Wall of Voodoo. Everyone from A-Ha to Frank Zappa were expanding the boundaries of popular music genres and creating all kinds of catchy, brilliant stuff while wearing their Puma sneakers.

Sure, a lot of the music was disposable, but even the one hit wonders generally had more talent and creativity than most of today's so-called "alternative" artists. Why do you think the Peak plays so much old stuff by people like Morrissey and the Cure? All those British artists could kick Third Eye

Blind's butts without even trying... and yes, that includes Wang Chung.

The clothes and a lot of other pop culture elements were awful, but they were supposed to be. People were experimenting with expressing themselves in new ways, and young people were trying to carve out identities of their own in reaction to all the Baby Boomer angst their parents were wallowing in during that period. Neon colors, wearing basketball shoes with suits, and all that other stuff were statements—just like the hippie threads sported by my generation's parents back in the Sixties and Seventies. Those of us who were having a good time back then were participating in a bizarre social experiment that helped define a whole generation.

It was a rad time. Most of us still had our youthful enthusiasm. Everybody I knew had some kind of plan for saving the world and the self-confidence required to wear pastel pink around strangers. We still believed that we could bring about a bodacious future where everybody could bop 'til we dropped to the beat of the city in a future similar to all those Jetsons cartoons we watched after school.

Looking back at those halcyon days with the perspective of a guy who is pushing thirty here in the new millennium, it seems like the Eighties were mostly pretty darn cool. Sure... we had the beginnings of the AIDS epidemic, and everybody was afraid of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal, but we definitely had more quirky charm than teenagers seem to have today. Those old photos might be embarrassing now, but my peers and I shared some very special times.

Adrian Workman
Student Life Editor

The 1980s were perhaps the worst years in American history.

Let's look at mainstream music. The bane of true musicians everywhere, MTV reared its ugly, infant head in 1983. This new company single-handedly robbed the average Joe of his ability to listen to good music. The best you could do was metal. Thanks to movies like Labyrinth and aesthetic labyrinths like David Lee Roth, metal was saturated with people who spent more on hair care than on guitars.

This started a god-awful trend of five minute-long guitar solo dinosaurs. Aural sacrileges who played their technically correct, creatively drab guitar solos over and over, each time faking orgasms, acting like they were just making it up as they went along, bodies writhing like they had a light bulb in their rectum. Kurt Cobain did not rob the spotlight from these people; he relieved us of them.

If you didn't want to be a "rebel" (choose: AC/DC or Metallica), you had the option of wearing hot pink or neon yellow and going to see Oingo Boingo. Thanks to this cursed decade, Brian Setzer still has a pulse, and his annoying band rapes my car radio frequently. I tip my hat only to The Cars, The Bangles, and all the great punk bands that everybody ignored.

You can keep all the actors from the 80s. All their movies, too. You can keep *Revenge of the Nerds*, you can take all the *Back to the Future*, *Ten Wolf*, both *Grease* movies, *Rambo* and *Rocky* movies, as well as *Predator* and practice rectal insertion for awhile. Admittedly, all the actors younger than me suck, but they are a hair better than the whole silver screen scene from the 80s.

You can keep all the political hoopla, too. Thank you, Ronald Reagan, you brainless oaf. Your ignorance, incompetence, and inattention to your job nearly brought the economy to its knees in the late 80s. Yep, we needed all the Adam Smithian economics policies and Iran-contra affairs we could get. The sickest thing is that he is made out of so much political Teflon that Republican presidential nominees since claim to be 'the true Reaganite Republican.' I'd like to thank Generation Dumbass for electing him. I'd also like to thank all the playwrights who sat him down in a hotel room and taught him what to say and when. Actors are good at that kind of thing, right? Especially if you give him lines. Especially if you give him lines from his opponent's carefully prepared arguments.

Oh, and thank God for that War on Drugs! Remember that? Why couldn't we give the right drugs to the right people? Cyanide would have great for Poison, Motley Crue, and Def Leppard. All these untalented musicians with nothing to shoot up except Budweiser. That to me is a perfect explanation why pop culture and style was so aesthetically crappy in that era.

We had a glimmer of hope in the early 90s. Up until about 1994, I think. Many awesome musicians somehow busted through the Mylar ceiling of MTV and its corporate crap. MTV had no choice but to convert to "grunge" long enough to steer musical attention back to itself again. Now we are back in 1985, musically. Seems that in the early 90's, thousands of mullet-headed people woke up one day, looked at their goofy heads in the mirror, and the haircuts [or lack thereof] that ensued nearly started an American renaissance. But, viva the full circle! Things can only be stupid/good for so long.

Sex & Violence

i'm only wearing black until
they make something darker

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Pre-marital abstinence: *You should try it too*

Steven J. Barry
Assistant Editor

I know—you're sick and tired of hearing the whole "you give a piece of yourself away every time you have sex" argument. So am I. For many people, that whole phrase is taken about as seriously as a "this is your brain on drugs" commercial: cheesy and overused. Does the fact that a cheesy commercial took away some of the seriousness of the issue change the fact that drugs will fry your brain? No. Does an overused phrase that's no longer taken seriously change the fact that pre-marital sex is harmful? No. Pre-marital sex is harmful and can be detrimental to the both the relationship in which it takes place and any future relationship, to include a marriage.

Let me pause to tell you that I'm not scolding or standing on a pedestal looking down on everyone out there who has sex in total disgust. I was in the wrong myself; I have had sex before marriage, and I totally regret it. My marriage (when I have one) will now never be able to be as pure as it could have been, no matter what I do. Therefore, I feel compelled to argue against pre-marital sex.

Everyone at some time has heard someone say something like "we had a great relationship, but then we started having sex and it ruined it," or "sex always complicates things and messes everything up." Pre-marital sex does "mess everything up" because of the emotional effects that it entails.

Every time you have sex with a person, you give a part of yourself to them that can never be taken back. Cheesy though it may sound, it is the solid truth, but it should not be taken too literally. The phrase is not implying that everyone has a limited supply of some ectoplasmic soul substance you hand out after every sexual encounter, and that once you're out of it you're doomed to a life of lonely, meaningless sex completely void of love. No. What it is saying is that when you have sex with someone, you establish a relationship with them, be it intentional or not, that is based on the truth that every mentally healthy person in some way equates sex with love. Sex with a boyfriend or girlfriend

(not a one-night-stand, which is another topic altogether) says, "I love you, and what we have done together is something that we will share exclusively."

For those of you who have experienced an exclusive sexual relationship, it's great, right? But sex before vowing to commitment through marriage sends no message of exclusivity whatsoever.

"I might not be 'the one.'"

"I know I'm not 'the one' for him/her and neither is he/she for me."

"I wonder how many other people he/she has done this with?"

"It's OK, I don't mind that he/she has had sex with two of my friends."

"I understand that this person will have sex with many other people in the future, and I know that eventually I will be an insignificant memory after they find the person they truly love."

No matter who you are or what you may say in opposition, it does not feel good to admit things like that to yourself. Now think about it—how many "insignificant" memories like that do most people have? For some probably quite a few, for others, very few or none at all, and some people are probably saying something to the effect of "each and every person I've had sex with has been very special to me." Really? Then why have they had sex with more than one person? Because those people really weren't that special, and the decision to have sex with them was made before a permanent, exclusive emotional connection could be established between the two partners (I know—I've done it). That kind of connection is what is necessary if a relationship is to survive after sex, and the safest way to ensure that connection exists is to find someone you are willing to marry.

On a side note, if you feel no need to have an emotional connection to anyone you have sex with then sex has become a drug to you, and continuing to have it could eventually result in some seriously harmful consequences (AIDS, gonorrhea, herpes, hepatitis C, crabs, genital warts, sexual addiction or an unwanted pregnancy are just a few of them). Also, if you've had a few partners and you're still sticking to your guns and saying that every one was truly special, you must be into polygamy, so you're on your own, too.

Waiting until after marriage to have sex does several things to strengthen a relationship. First of all, it eliminates a huge portion of the jealousy factor—which can tear relationships apart even if there are no other problems—because of the fact that sex is something the husband and wife share exclusively. Secondly, it shows that the necessary emotional and spiritual connections have been established before a sexual connection has been established. Finally (and perhaps most importantly), it shows that your future spouse cares about you enough that they want to spend the rest of their life with you even if you somehow became unable to have sex, and it shows they are capable of abstaining if necessary, meaning there will be complete trust during time apart. A marriage like that is something beautiful and joyful, and it's something that will last.

"What if we get married and the sex is horrible?" My theory is that if you're able to find another person that you're willing to marry regardless of the sex factor, they're going to be so compatible with you that good sex will be hard to avoid. There will be true love involved, and that will take things to a whole new level. People with truly compatible personalities will find themselves thumbing

through the Kama Sutra after a while if they get too lost, anyway.

"Well, I don't want to think about marrying every person I date." No one said that abstaining makes you a spouse hunter. Just eliminate sex as a factor in the relationships you have, and eventually you will find a pure relationship, in which case marriage might be something to consider.

Promiscuity wasn't really considered acceptable in the U.S. until the 1960's. Not surprisingly, it was in the 1960's that the divorce rate began to climb to the sky-high rate it's at right now—a staggering (approximate) 41 percent. In fact, right now 10 percent of adults living in the U.S. have been through a divorce. Coincidence? I think not. Pre-marital sex can ruin marriages or cheapens their value.

The bottom line is that if you want to be healthy and happy, abstain until marriage. Waiting for marriage to have sex will only make the marriage that much stronger, and each and every pre-marital sexual encounter makes the likelihood of a healthy marriage dwindle that much more. At least try abstaining from pre-marital sex in the future, and if you're having pre-marital sex with someone right now, try stopping—it may tell you quite a bit about the relationship.

Easterner *Letters to the Editor*

Dear Editor,

Here is my gift countering Adrian Workman's "gift" in the article, "Your first time between the sheets." First of all, to all those who read the article, don't believe its foolish advice about having "education partners," or the ludicrous words: "I hardly feel that I lost anything when I first had sex."

A person who doesn't feel that they lost anything by having sex for the first time outside of marriage had already lost a healthy perspective of love, life, relationships and themselves before they chose to have sex. They also have no idea how intimate of a bond sex really is. Jenn Harrington's advice is the closest thing to wisdom in the entire article when she says: "Make sure it's with someone that really matters." Exactly, and that someone that mat-

ters should only be with the one that matters the most, a husband or wife.

The whole purpose of relationships before marriage is to learn about yourself and others, communication, love and unselfish giving, the things that eventually make marriages the vibrant and joyful partnerships that they are meant to be. Make no mistake about it, sex is a part of the whole that is marriage, and great sex is the by-product of great communication and love within that marriage, and it is all a learning process.

Virgins, be proud and stay virgins until you find a loving husband or wife. Non-virgins, including myself, know that the blood of Jesus Christ provides forgiveness and renewal.

Thank You,
Sam Holden,
Recent EWU Graduate

The Easterner

Letters to the Editor

Please type your letter, restricting it to 250 words. Include your full name, signature and telephone number for verification. We reserve the right not to publish letters, and all printed material is subject to editing. Letters must be received by Tuesday at 3 p.m. to be published in the following Thursday issue.

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PSX2: Playstation2 review

Adrian Workman
Campus Life Editor

If you've heard anything good about Sony's Playstation 2, don't believe it: It is probably an understatement.

When I was very young, my mother would not let me own a Nintendo [or an Atari, or Sega, or anything 'demonic']. Whenever I went to any place with arcade games, I would beg other people for quarters to play them. Super Mario Bros., Hogan's Alley, Silkworm, Pole Position, whatever. If people didn't oblige my humble request, I would be semi-content to watch. I was that kid, and I still am: I've always been addicted to video games. I would flop at friends' houses if I knew they had a system. Betty Ford will never have a clinic for what I went through to get where I'm at today, but she should.

In all my video game-frenzied life, I have never had the opportunity to play something at home that was better than what you could play in the arcades for quarters. Not until now. If you do not believe me, play Tekken Tag at the mall, and then play it on my PS2. It sounds better, looks better, and moves better in my sweet living room.

Own three systems now. One is the normal Playstation, which is awaiting its fate as a \$20 sale to a friend here in Cheney. The other is my Nintendo 64, which is sleeping in a backpack next to my fireplace. Maybe it has a coma. I have not played James Bond or Perfect Dark [two Rareware favorites, and possibly the best games ever made] since my purchase of the PS2. They are close roommates with my 64.

My VCR is now hooked up to the little TV in my room. The PS2's DVD player offers crystalline performance that meets or beats any other DVD player available. The only reason why my girlfriend has not moved to Louisiana is because of the DVD capabilities. You could pay up to \$500 for a DVD player by itself. You could pay less for the Sega Dreamcast or wait for Mr. Gates' magic "X-Box," but you are missing out on the ultimate bang for your gaming buck if you pass up the opportunity to purchase a PS2.

Possible arguments for not buying a PS2:

"It's too expensive." Wait for the price to go down. It is worth it. If this is your sore spot, listen to Bob Marley when he says "good things come to those who wait." You may not have to wait long. Sony announced a March release of 11 million more systems. If you have been even "sugar-plums-dancing-in your-head" planning on purchasing either a DVD or a new game console, this purchase is money in your pocket. You can have your cake and eat it too.

"It's unavailable." True, the dickheads of the world have riddled e-bay and your classified ads sections with their pie-in-the-sky hopes of selling their extra PS2 for enough to buy a decent Volkswagen. [I have a special spot in hell for those people]. Keep their pies in the sky for a while longer. Look for a guy in the classified ads who knows that he's not going to get as much out of his capitalistic venture as he previously thought. I bought mine on the "gray market" for \$400. That's about \$62 more than what it cost the guy brand new. The neat thing about this is I went to the mall later on that week in late December to look at games. It turns out that one of the electronic entertainment stores there had PS2s in stock...for exactly \$399.99. With tax, this rounds out to about \$433.19. That means I actually saved \$33. So it is available, but opportunity doesn't knock forever. See also my previous comment about the month of March in the preceding paragraph.

"I'm getting the X Box/Dreamcast/Game Cube [Nintendo's new baby]." Okay. Let's dismiss the Dreamcast right now. Sega tied the Genesis to its feet and jumped into the ocean. Sega's last few flailing attempts at grabbing a life preserver have materialized as the Saturn,

and now this. At 32 megabytes of RAM, the Dreamcast possesses half the memory of the PS2. The graphic resolution is also lower. The PS2 sits on its 164-bit throne, while Dreamcast dances around 128 bits. While it did come with a worthless 56k modem installed, by the time the system was released, Sega's customers found it far more convenient to access the Internet from their PCs. Sega is promising to sell some sort of broadband modem that is supposed to be a lot faster, but that may be too little, too late. Sega's heyday was during the lifespan of the Super Nintendo. I personally find their selection of games unimpressive, considering how long the system has been on the market. There are ports on the PS2 for broadband Internet access, but I'm assuming that like me, if you are considering purchasing a gaming console, you want to play video games on it. Remember WebTV?

I could not scratch up the specs on Nintendo's new console, but I'm betting on the Game Cube running the traditional line of Mario/Zelda/Yoshi/cutesy sports games before Nintendo gets around to contracting any decent game developers. The only eyebrow raiser for me is that they are promising a new version of Metroid. That is kind of an expensive reason to buy a system, though.

Please see Playstation2, next page

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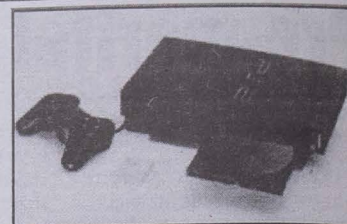
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The Blue Spark Pub

Brian Triplett
Copy Editor

If you enjoy expressing yourself through music or poetry, or you just get a kick out of hearing acoustic guitar renditions of Ozzy Osborne songs, you should be at the Blue Spark every Monday evening from 8 p.m. to midnight for their weekly open mic nights. Conveniently located at 15 S. Howard, just two blocks away from the EWU Spokane Center, the Blue Spark is an intimate pub that somehow manages to maintain a bohemian atmosphere without seeming like a stereotypical pretentious coffee house. The patrons range from hipsters in their twenties to business professionals in their forties. So whether you just turned twenty-one, or you simply choose to act like it, you will probably fit in with ease.

The tunes on the Blue Spark's electronic jukebox are like your weird older brother's record collection. The bizarre mix of piped-in songs range from Eighties New Wave staples, to Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire," to Shirley Bassey's theme from the movie *Goldfinger*. Basically, you get all the kitschy fun of karaoke night without having to listen to drunken insurance salesmen singing Sinead O'Connor songs. Their cocktails all have strange names, a picture of dogs playing poker hangs by the stage, and one generally gets the sense that the staff and customers don't take themselves too seriously. It seems like the perfect place to try out a few original songs or perform an arrangement of "Higher" by Creed for banjo and kazoo.

On January 8th, 15 people played to a fairly crowded house. Annette the manager considered that a slow night, and said that they "usually get twice that many people signed up" to perform.

The acts ranged from a woman named Sophia who recited a poem in a vaguely Russian-sounding accent to an older gentleman named Raymond who sang Johnny Cash and Elvis songs, to a trio that forged ahead despite the fact that their guitarist failed to show up and crafted some lively Latin music on accordion and various drums. Mostly, the budding artists were guitar players who played a nice mix of cover songs. A madman named Doug D. won over the room with his wacky original songs such as "I'm So Big." He also plays a mean acoustic guitar version of "Crazy Train."

If you are interested in participating, emcee Dave Jordan says that all you need to do is "come in around 8:30 or 9:00 and sign up on the list." The open mike nights are highly spontaneous affairs, so you don't need to worry about auditioning or signing up a few days in advance.

Musicians generally seem to play short sets featuring three or four songs. This allows a lot of people to perform and provides Blue Spark patrons with the opportunity to hear a wide range of material in a relatively short period of time. This gives songwriters and other performers a great opportunity to try out their strongest material in a friendly and generally forgiving setting. If their acts go over well, they can leave the crowd wanting more. If their sets don't exactly dazzle the audience, there is plenty of time left before last call to head over to one of Spokane's many other fine drinking establishments and tell everybody there that they rocked the house.

The house sound system is more than adequate. Thanks to Dave Jordan, everybody sounded pretty good despite a few minor setbacks such as uncooperative microphone stands. The sound system is also rather loud, so there is no need to worry about competing with conversations or having enough volume for that epic five-minute guitar solo. One young man, armed with a Fender Stratocaster and a couple of Ibanez Soundtank guitar pedals, ran his ax straight into the house system and sounded absolutely huge when he used his distortion effect.

Based on evidence from the January 8th session, it seems more important to be able to sing with conviction and act comfortable on stage than it does to have a high level of skill on an instrument. More emphasis is placed on being an entertainer than pulling off flawless displays of virtuosity to impress any music students who happen to be there. Of course, if you can do that too, it certainly doesn't hurt.

Musicians of all skill levels should go and try it at least once. It doesn't pay anything, but the experience of playing before an appreciative crowd is worth infinitely more than mere money. I am half-tempted to put new batteries in all my guitar pedals and try it myself.

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Playstation2: From page 6

The daunting X-box promises the moon, and perhaps justifiably. At 64 Megs of RAM, 733 MHz [compared to PS2's 300], and promises of over 100 games at date of release and guaranteed stock, the X-Box is quite the contender. The only thing that it and the Game Cube do not have is backward compatibility. The Playstation console has had such a long run in the gaming field with perhaps hundreds of games. Its sheer popularity would make the idea of forcing Sony's customers buy new games for their new system seem ludicrous. Nintendo finally broke the cartridge barrier in going to a CD-based system, but it also broke my desire to follow them around the technological field of gaming. The X-Box will be an awesome performance system, but you will have to wait until fall of this year [maybe longer], and you owners of the Playstation will have to buy more games. Also, you can operate the PS2's DVD player with the controller included with the system. With the Microsoft X-Box, you will have to buy a remote separately.

I didn't buy my first Playstation2 game until a week ago. I've been too busy enjoying the improved speed and sound of my normal Playstation games. Also, I have yet to finish *Final Fantasy IX*.

"Video games are demonic." Go to hell.

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Comedy World, 1050 AM: Push the FCC's buttons

Steven J. Barry
News Editor

A new, syndicated comedy radio station just kicked off their nationwide marketing, and they chose Spokane as one of the first cities to market to. Honestly. While you may find that funny, the programming on Comedy World, at 1050 AM, is far funnier, and Spokane is lucky to have them.

Though it is their current main effort, Comedy World actually consists of a bit more than just syndicated radio programming; they also have a website getting plenty of hits every day, and they've signed a production deal with Burly Bear Network, a leading multi-media entertainment network targeting college students across the country.

Comedy World's innovative programming is a result of a unique method of selecting DJ's. Most radio stations hire DJ's and tell them to be comedians, but Comedy World hires comedians and tells them to be DJ's. The result is a mix of comedy and radio talk programming that can't be found anywhere else.

"We've created this interesting hybrid...this neat not radio-not Internet entertainment-company, and it turned out really well," said Jody Sherman, Comedy World's President and CEO.

The company started marketing about a year ago with only 16 employees, and now Sherman has approximately 170 people working at Comedy World, he said.

Comedy World weekday radio programming includes ten different two, three and four hour shows, resulting in a wide variety of comedic radio shows running 24 hours a day.

The "Ahmet and Kennedy Show," for example, airs from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and pushes the FCC's buttons the entire time. The result is hilarious. An interesting fact about the show: "Kennedy" is Angela Davis, a former MTV VJ and—more importantly—an Eastern graduate.

Sherman says he's thoroughly enjoyed his experience with Comedy World so far, and that his favorite aspects of his position have definitely been working with the talent on staff and the reception of Comedy World by the market.

"We've been taken care of really well by the market," said Sherman.

"Our job is to create compelling [comedic] programming, and they seem to be responding well to it."

That's not to say launching a syndicated radio company is any small task, though. Sherman said it took people willing to take risks to get things started, and that it was quite a challenge initially to get distribution going and to find radio stations.

At the Website, www.comedyworld.com, users can listen to Comedy World live on the air, listen to shows that were recorded days beforehand, check out new jokes (and even rate them), enter contests, view profiles of show hosts, and a variety of other things.

Comedy World currently has a long list of entertainment partners to include the immensely popular "Kids in the Hall," Sandra Bernhard, Eddie Griffin [*Armageddon*, *Duane Gigo*, *Male Gigolo*, *The Mod Squad*] and Harland Williams [*Something About Mary*, *The Whole Nine Yards*, *Dumb and Dumber*].

Comedy World is currently broadcasting in Atlantic City, N.J.; Charleston, N.C.; Madison, Wis.; Reno, Nev.; Memphis, Tenn.; Providence, R.I.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Chicago, Ill. and, last but not least, Spokane, Wash.

Thank You!

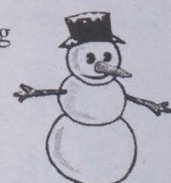
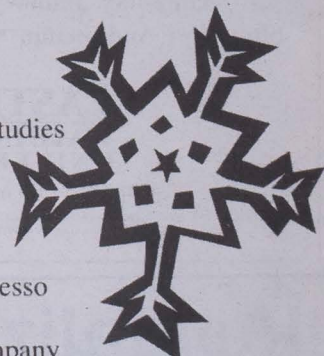


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January 11, 2001

Home is where the winning is for Eagles

Eagles to host Idaho St., Portland St.

By Tom Fox
Sports Editor

After a rough, but beneficial road trip, the Eastern Washington men's basketball team will be home for the first time in a month to host visiting Idaho State tonight and Portland State Friday at Reese Court.

TONIGHT
Idaho St. vs. EWU
at
Reese Ct., 7:05 p.m.



The last six-game road trip was tough (4 losses) but also inspiring for the

Eagles that defeated the University of Montana in Missoula, Mont. 78-76 in overtime.

Last season the Grizzlies and Eastern tied for the conference championship with 16-4 records.

The win was a confidence builder for Eastern (6-6 overall, 1-1 Big Sky) and now playing at home will be even more reassuring.

Eastern won both meetings with Idaho St. last season, the first, on Jan. 6, in dramatic fashion, when first team All-Big Sky guard Ryan Hansen launched a half court prayer shot for the 70-69 game winner. The shot earned Hansen the Compaq College Basketball Play of the Year in 1999-00.

The Eagles dominated the second meeting on Feb. 17, 87-64. The win came in the middle

of the six-game winning streak the Eagles put on in the tail end of last season that allowed them to own a share of the Big Sky Conference Championship.

This week Eastern is hoping for two wins with Idaho St. (4-7) and Portland St. (3-10, 0-2) post losing records.

Eagle head coach Ray Giacoletti hopes that the defensive effort that his team had against Montana last week will carry into the two home games.

"We need to set the tone for defense," said Giacoletti. "Our defense has been playing well, we need to continue that at home this week-end."

Eastern has been playing well all season long, but not finishing games, something that Giacoletti and the Eagles accomplished last Saturday.

After an overtime loss to Cal Poly Dec. 14 and a near win at Oregon St., 58-50, Eastern defeated Montana in overtime.

"That was a good win for us," Giacoletti said. "But we need to realize that we only have 14 games left and we've got to have balance each game."

The three-point basket at the buzzer has been the thorn in Eastern's side this season. Twice, Eastern has surrendered leads to its opponents with a three pointer to tie the game.

Cal Poly sunk a game tying shot and eventually won in overtime, and last week, Montana's Shane Christensen also drained a big shot to send the contest into overtime.

"I've never had two situations like we recently had," the Eagles head coach said.

Eastern took a 77-74 lead with 10 seconds left in the game and quickly fouled Christensen at half court, to prevent another game-tying shot by the junior.

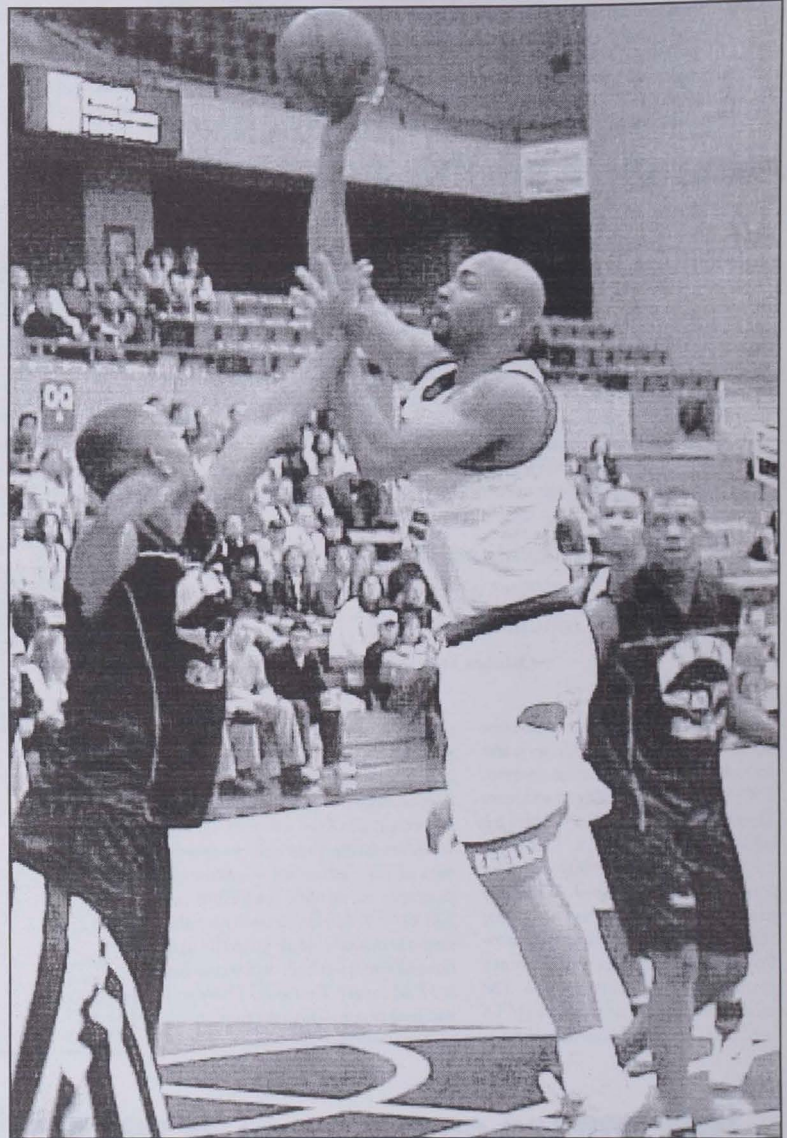
But Christensen, who shot .792 from the stripe last season, sunk both free throws to put the Grizzlies within one point of the Eagles' lead.

Eastern's Jason Lewis was quickly fouled and he went on to make the clinching two free throws and preserve the win.

"We fouled the wrong guy," said Giacoletti. "We wanted to push the ball into someone else's hands, but that didn't happen. Christiansen tried to miss the second free throw, but banked it in."

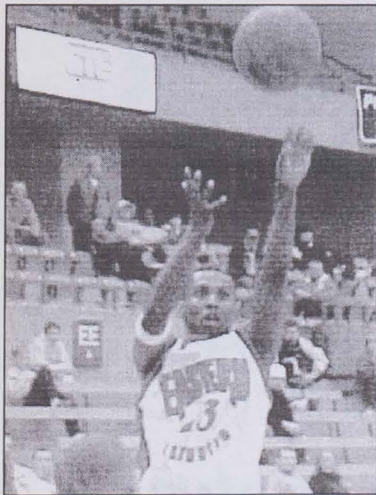
Eastern's post players were crucial in the team's success. Both Chris White and Jason

See: Eagles, pg. 10



Maggie Miller/Easterner

Senior forward Chris White is shooting a Big Sky Conference best 60 percent from the field.



Maggie Miller/Easterner

Eastern's senior point guard Jamal Jones will run the offense tonight.

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Best club on the mountain

For skiing and snowboarding EWU now has S.N.O.W.S

Jay Wells
Reporter

Winter is now upon us, with the freak snow and ice storms, the mountains have become once again our white-capped majestic friends. With Jack Frost nipping at our noses, we head to the slopes to take in the New Year's snow experience. What better way to get your ski/snowboard experience is there than with S.N.O.W.S., EWU's very own ski/snowboard club?

Around three years ago Eastern had a club similar to this one but it was not very popular, so it met an early death. Yet in the last year two EWU students, Tim Dineen and Steve Dechter, have envisioned the idea for what is called S.N.O.W.S. Under the advisement of Kirk Bishop, they formed the club last April. With only nine members on average attending the meetings last year, the club is now flourishing with a recorded twenty members in regular attendance. The mission statement of the club is "To facilitate skiers and boarders alike in

their mountain cravings."

To make this possible, the club organizes carpools to the slopes, and arranges for discount lift tickets and equipment deals. S.N.O.W.S. also plans trips to mountains that are not in the local area, such as the Whistler trip they are in the process of planning.

Not only does S.N.O.W.S. want to facilitate a recreational club, they would also like to form a competitive group that would compete on the collegiate level. The club stays active year round to plan for the winter activities. The activities that S.N.O.W.S. participate in are based largely on the individual club members' initiative to help in the planning and execution of the activities. At this week's meeting, they will elect members of the club to fill council-type positions to provide leadership for S.N.O.W.S. So if your desire for the slopes is mountainous, go to the first floor of Patterson hall, on the couches at 3 P.M., every Thursday. There you will find people who have the craving for the snow just like you.

"To facilitate skiers and boarders alike in their mountain cravings."

— Mission statement

Eagles: road trip ends with big win in Missoula

From page 9

Humbert combined for 33 points and 15 rebounds.

White hit 6 of 7 shots from the floor and sunk all eight of his free throws in the win.

The 6-foot-9 senior has been leading the team over the last four games averaging 12.3 points and 7.3 rebounds per outing.

White's hot shooting has boasted his field goal percentage to a Big Sky best of 60 percent. "Chris has come on nicely for us," Giacoletti said.

"The team has done well getting him the ball."

Eastern will continue to get post players the ball inside. "Every trip the ball needs to touch our post player's

hands," Giacoletti said. "We need to work the ball inside out."

Freshman guard Alvin Snow will be questionable for Thursday night's game due to a separated shoulder, but senior point guard Jamal Jones will be back after an ankle injury against Montana.

Lady Eagles take to the road

Eastern's women's basketball team will be on a two-game road swing to Pocatello, Idaho tonight and Portland, Ore. Saturday night.

The Bengals (7-4, 0-0) took both meetings from the Eagles last season, and Portland St. (1-13, 0-2) split with Eastern a year ago.

Eastern dropped both conference contests last week to Montana St. and Montana.

Junior forward Allie Bailey scored 10 points against the Bobcats in Bozeman, and then had a double-double against the Grizzlies. Bailey grabbed 18 rebounds and scored 16 points in the loss. Janelle Ruen added 7 points and three assists.

Next week the Eagles will return home for two games against visiting Northern Arizona (4-11, 1-1) and Cal State Northridge (6-7, 2-0).



Allie Bailey
6-1, Jr., Forward
Spokane, WA
Mead High
School '98

Career stats:

	G	GS	Min	AT	RB	ST	PTS	AVG
1998-99	26	23	25.1	171	41	36	175	6.7
1999-00	23	23	29.7	213	43	36	209	9.1
Totals	49	46	27.4	384	84	72	384	7.8

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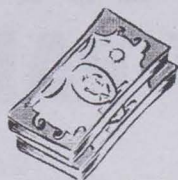
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